

REMARKS

Claims 1-50 were pending when last examined. With this amendment, Applicants amend Claims 13-15, 17-18, 20-21, 36-41, and 45-46 and cancel Claims 1-12, 16, 23-35, 42-44, and 47-50. All pending claims are shown in the detailed listing above.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Claims 35-38 and 42-44 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by USPN 6,049,229 to Manohar et al. (hereinafter “Manohar I”).

Claims 35 and 42-44 have been cancelled, thereby rendering moot any rejection of these claims.

As to the remaining claims, Claims 36-38 have been amended to depend from Claim 40 which, as discussed below, should now be in condition for allowance. As such, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 36-38 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) be withdrawn and these claims be allowed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 1-9 and 23-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Manohar (I).

Claims 1-9 and 23-27 have been cancelled, thereby rendering moot any rejection of these claims.

Claims 12-17, 20, 28-34, 39 and 47-50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over USPN 5,917,340 to Manohar et al. (hereinafter “Manohar II”).

Claims 12, 16, 28-34, and 47-50 have been cancelled, thereby rendering moot any rejection of these claims.

As to the remaining claims, Claims 13-15, 17, and 39 have been amended to depend from one of Claims 18 and 40 which, as discussed below, should now be in condition for allowance. As such, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 13-15, 17, and 39 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn and these claims be allowed.

Claims 10 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Manohar (I) et al. in view of USPN 6,545,514 to Barrow.

Claims 10 and 11 have been cancelled, thereby rendering moot any rejection of these claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that Claims 18, 19, 21, 22, 40, 41, 45, and 46 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants have amended Claims 18, 21, 40, and 41 to be in independent form, and thus should now be in condition for allowance. Claims 19 and 22 depend from Claims 18 and 21, respectively, and thus should also be allowable.

CONCLUSION

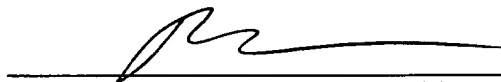
Applicants respectfully request that the pending claims be allowed and the case passed to issue. Should the Examiner wish to discuss the Application, it is requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned at (415) 772-1200.

EXPRESS MAIL LABEL NO.:

Respectfully submitted,

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December 7, 2004

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